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## ACUC Member Spotlight



**Dr. Diana Linnekin**  
Co-Chair of the NCI-Frederick  
Animal Care and Use Committee

Dr. Linnekin received a Ph.D. in physiology from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in 1989. Her postdoctoral work was performed at NCI-Frederick in the Laboratory of Molecular Immunoregulation and addressed signal transduction mechanisms of cytokines. She was a Principal Investigator at NCI-Frederick from 1992-2004 and her work dealt with understanding the mechanism of action of stem cell factor. Stem cell factor (SCF) is critical for survival, growth, and differentiation of hematopoietic progenitor cells, as well as for the development of mast

cells. Further, activating mutations in the SCF receptor are associated with mastocytosis, leukemia, and gastrointestinal stromal cell tumors. Because of the importance of SCF in normal hematopoiesis, as well as its role in human disease, she studied both normal and oncogenic forms of the SCF receptor in two important target populations, hematopoietic progenitor cells and mast cells. Currently, she works in the Office of the Director for the CCR and is assisting with the activities in the Center of Excellence in Immunology. Dr. Linnekin has been on the NCI-Frederick ACUC since 2001 and is pleased to contribute with efforts to facilitate productive and humane research using animals.

## AAALAC International Site Visit

The NCI-Frederick animal care and use program will be undergoing its triennial site visit by the [Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International](#) in the Spring of 2005. AAALAC International is a private nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through a voluntary accreditation process. During this extensive process, site visitors will evaluate the basic components of the NCI-Frederick animal care and use program (i.e., institutional policies, animal husbandry, animal care, veterinary care, occupational health and safety, and the physical plant) using the *Guide for the Care and Use of Animals* as their primary reference. Upon completion of the review, the NCI-Frederick is notified and must address any of the deficiencies and/or recommendations that were noted by the site visitors. To ensure continued full accreditation, which the NCI-Frederick has maintained since 1975, the Laboratory Animal Sciences Program and the Animal Care

and Use Committee are diligently preparing for this upcoming review as a demonstration of our commitment to maintaining high standards of animal care and use at the NCI-Frederick.

## New Employee Orientation

All new LASP employees receive instruction on animal health and welfare within their first month of employment. The New Employee Orientation provides general information about the use of animals in biomedical research and details on the identification and reporting of animal health concerns in the NCI-Frederick animal facilities. The presentation is in PowerPoint format and is followed by a short written quiz. Employees must achieve a quiz score of 70% or above or individual retraining is provided until proficiency is demonstrated. The training module is available in Spanish, French and Chinese, (CD-ROM), and an online version is in development. Please contact [Dr. Heather Narver](#), LASP Animal Program Veterinarian, for additional information or to register an employee for the course.

## Conscientious Research

The use of animals in biomedical research is critical to the understanding and treatment of disease. However, it is important for investigators to remember the underlying humane and ethical responsibilities that are expected to maintain public trustworthiness when working with animal models in your research projects. Animals are living creatures that experience pain and distress. It is your responsibility as a researcher to ensure that your animals are properly and responsibly cared for. To assure good conscience, investigators are guided by the following principles:

### NCI-Frederick Animal Care and Use Links

[Home Page](#)  
[Guidelines and Policies](#)  
[Alternatives](#)  
[Training](#)  
[Forms](#)

The ACUC is always interested in new members to assist the committee. If you are willing to volunteer as an ACUC member on any of its subcommittees, please contact the [NCI-Frederick ACUC Office](#)

### Regulations and Policies Links

[Animal Welfare Act](#)  
[Public Health Service Policy](#)  
[Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#)  
[U.S. Government Principles](#)



- Ensure humane care and treatment
- Use animal models only when non-animal methods are inadequate and inappropriate
- Use as few animals as possible
- Design experiments that yield scientifically reliable and useful data in the advancement of knowledge or for the good of society
- Avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain
- Utilize sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia when painful/distressful procedures are required for your experimental design
- Ensure humane endpoints
- Ensure that your staff is appropriately trained in the proposed procedures
- Individuals working with animal models should be familiar with the behavioral characteristics of their animal subject as a mechanism for identifying potential pain, distress, or health related issues

It is the goal of the ACUC to ensure that research activities at the NCI-Frederick are conducted in a manner that maintains the public's trust and respect. We appreciate your continued commitment to this effort.

- [U.S. Government Principles for the Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training](#)
- [NABR](#) – The Humane Care and Treatment of Laboratory Animals
- [APA](#) – Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in the Care and Use of Animals

## Animal Welfare Concerns

The ACUC would like to remind all animals users that they are encouraged to confidentially report any concerns they may have regarding the care, use,

treatment, or handling of animals at the NCI-Frederick. You may contact any of the following individuals for confidential reporting:

- **Dr. Melinda Hollingshead**

Chair, NCI-Frederick Animal Care and Use Committee (301-846-5608)

- **Dr. Jeanne Herring**

Attending Veterinarian, NCI-Frederick Animal Care and Use Committee (301-846-5195)

- **Dr. Craig Reynolds**

NCI-Frederick Institutional Official (301-846-1302)

- **NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare** (301-402-2803)

Please feel free to contact Ms. Michelle Ahalt (301-846-7544) if you have any questions or need assistance.

## Pest Management

The NCI-Frederick animal facilities operate under a Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) status. This SPF status ensures that investigators are provided with quality animal models for their research projects. An essential part of maintaining this status is the use of an Integrated Pest Management program. This program is designed to discourage and prevent pest entry into our animal colonies. Feral rodents have been trapped and have tested positive for unwanted murine pathogens or opportunistic agents at the NCI-Frederick. While FME and the facility staff members are responsible for ensuring that detailed inspections are completed, it is important for individuals working within or around the animal facilities to ensure good practices by cooperating with our pest control professionals. Here are some things you can do to help out:

- Notify FME (301-846-1068) if you observe pests in traps located inside or outside of animal facilities
- Notify FME if you observe rodent harborage or burrows near animal facilities
- Notify FME if you observe birds roosting or nesting near animal facilities
- Ensure that garbage container lids are on tight
- Ensure that doors are closed tightly
- Avoid leaving trash around that may attract pests

## Update on Fur Mites and Pinworms

The quarantine in **Building 567** due to fur mites has been lifted. Several weeks of follow-up testing continue to be negative. The third floor of **Building 571** has been cleared of pinworms. Again, several weeks of follow-up testing continue to be negative. Both facilities are cleared for business as usual.



*Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the Upcoming New Year !!!*



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